

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Furthermore, the actions of Sinclair Broadcasting are more difficult to understand when it has previously stated that it would not air political messages disguised as news. Broadcasters using the public airways should understand that they have a responsibility to the public to not take a political side beyond editorial endorsements. As a member of the public, I feel that my interests are not being served by the obvious political bias being shown by Sinclair, especially when the program in question is not news, but propaganda with little basis in historical fact.

Thank you.